

# MICU ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

## December 11, 2000

- Call to Order:** (Dr. Nevins) The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.  
No votes were held, that involved Medical Directors, due to a lack of a quorum.
- Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the September 11, 2000 meeting were approved as submitted.
- MICU Future Planning:**  
(Dr. Nevins) Since the last meeting, HCFA has published their new regulations, a significant amount of comments were sent in from throughout the country, and the NJ Coalition went back to Washington. A copy of the letter that was sent to HCFA was made available at the meeting. As of last week, HCFA decided to indefinitely postpone the implementation of the new fee schedule. This delay in implementation gives New Jersey an opportunity to do some further planning.  
(G. Muench) Empire Medicare Services has been holding provider meetings, in which they have reiterated that they are implementing the new HCFA Rules, with the exception of the Fee Schedule on January 1, 2001.  
(Dr. Brennan) HCFA, Standing Orders, PALS, and ACLS were discussed.  
Deputy Commissioner DiFerdinando is looking at the legal ramifications of changing the prehospital research laws. Dr. DiFerdinando also stated that he was going to arrange a meeting with the Medical Directors and the State Attorney General's Office to discuss this issue.  
The rollout of the RSI curriculum was discussed and a rollout on January 24-25, 2001 is expected. The Medical Command video has been funded, and anyone who is interested in participating in its production should notify Karen Halupke at the OEMS.  
The target publishing date, of the new N.J.A.C. 8:41 is the spring of 2001.
- Base Station Physician Education:** (K. Halupke) We are moving forward in the next couple of weeks with the video and the printed guidebook.
- Prehospital Research:** (G. Muench) The Attorney General's Office met with OEMS and Dr. DiFerdinando in the late summer. They are currently reviewing the materials on prehospital research and have not gotten back to us yet.
- Medications & Devices:** (Dr. Lahita) Amiodarone, and Vasopressin were brought up for discussion during the Medical Directors meeting. The committee is suggesting that the Council accept these drugs as optional medications. It was also suggested that we invite Dr. Swidler from the American Heart Association to participate in the next committee meeting.  
The prepackaged Cyanide Poisoning Kit was also discussed. Although this kit would rarely be used, it has been needed in the Atlantic Health System area twice in the last couple of years. This kit contains syringes, Amyl Nitrate, Sodium Nitrate, and Sodium Thiosulfate. When a patient is exposed to Cyanide, this kit needs to be immediately available for it to be effective. It was also mentioned that most manufacturers using Cyanide have this kit available in the factory, but it is not always available immediately. A poll showed that most MICU Advisory Council members supported the Paramedics being trained in the use of this kit, but not necessarily having them carried on the Medic Units.  
The Adult Intraosseous Access Kit has been brought up for discussion again. It was discussed that this Access Kit has been brought up to the MICU Advisory Council in the past and has been voted down.  
It was also suggested that the following motion be voted on at the next meeting: Medications or devices that have been rejected, for addition to the approved list by a vote at MICU Advisory Council meeting, are only to be presented once a year, unless there is a significant change in its approved use, preparation, or any other significant difference.  
All of the items presented will be introduced at the next Council meeting for a vote.
- Standing Orders:** (Dr. DesRochers) The American Heart Association is distributing an ALERT, which corrects an error in the new ACLS Guidelines.

The idea of adding NG tubes to the Cardiac Arrest standing order was discussed, but the committee felt that this decision should be left up to each individual medical director. Standing orders for Croup, Bradycardia, PEA, Asystole, and VF/Pulseless VT were all discussed and will be introduced at the next Council meeting for a vote. Dr. Gerardi, the NJ-ACEP President-elect, discussed how the American Heart Association added Amiodarone to its drug list.

**Legislative Committee:**  
(S. Caputo)

S9/A2829 – which requires insurance carriers to use "prudent layperson" definition for coverage of emergency health care, was discussed.  
S14/A2836 – which establishes Hospital Emergency Services Development Fund in DHSS to assist hospitals in creating emergency services clinics for patients who do not require acute care or trauma care; appropriates \$9 million, was discussed.  
S122/A2607 – which prohibits health care facilities from requiring certain hourly wage employees to perform overtime work, was discussed.

**New Jersey EMS Council:**  
(Dr. Pruden)

A subcommittee was established to look into Diversion and Bypass.  
S1482/A2218 – which requires impact statement for any proposed regulation affecting volunteer ambulance squads and fire companies, was discussed.  
The USAR team has undergone training in swift-water rescue and fiber-optic searching devices. The New Jersey State First Aid Council has expressed their objections to certain AED legislation currently being considered. They will be explaining reasons at the next EMS Council meeting.

**New Jersey Association of Paramedic Programs:**  
(M. Hogan)

The HCFA Coalitions effort over the last 12-14 months has been recognized and is very much appreciated.  
The Association is requesting that all Programs return their BLS surveys.  
The Leading Edge conference was very successful this year with an excellent turnout.

**Helicopter Response Program:**  
(T. Starr)

SouthSTAR completed its 10,000<sup>th</sup> flight last quarter.  
In November, the helicopters were out of service due to a crack in the main rotor shaft, identified by Sikorsky. After twelve days, Sikorsky removed our particular model of helicopter from the danger list and they were placed back in service.  
The replacement program for a total of six helicopters is expected to begin in 2002 and be completed by 2005.

**OEMS Update:** (G. Muench)

In the next month, Susan Way will be joining the OEMS. She will be serving in a position between the Director and the Deputy Commissioner. Ms. Way should be attending the next MICU Advisory Council meeting.  
The annual issue of "divert and bypass" has been typically confined to the period of time between Thanksgiving and February. The National Association of State EMS Directors is now seeing this time period expand. The OEMS will be asking the ALS Communication Centers to inform us when certain areas are being overburdened.  
The OEMS has submitted a budget increase to help fund a Trauma Registry and electronic data submission.

**Education:** (B. Dinetz)

Gratitude was extended to Robert Clawson for getting the recertification cards out so quickly. Also a thank you was extended to Robert Wood Johnson – EMS for hosting the Paramedic Curriculum Update on November 21, 2000. If you have not received a complementary copy of Brady's new Paramedic Textbook please see Mr. Dinetz.  
The Paramedic Exam dates for 2001 will be the second Saturday in March, June, September, and December. Applications for testing will be due thirty days prior to each exam date.  
A thank you was extended to James Mondoro for serving as the National Registry Representative for the Paramedic Exams.  
(J. Mondoro)  
(B. Dinetz) On Saturday, December 9, 2000 a total of eight students tested with a total of three partial failures. The EMT Training Fund Council meeting will be on December 13, 2000 at 4:00 PM at the Allentown First Aid Squad, Allentown, NJ.

**Other business:** (S. Nevins)      The 2001 Council meeting dates will be:      Monday, March 12, 2001  
Monday, June 11, 2001  
Monday, September 10, 2001  
Monday, December 10, 2001

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.